

SEP 30 2002

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# Public Service Commission Of West Virginia

201 Brooks Street, P. O. Box 812  
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

James D. Williams  
Chairman



September 27, 2002

**VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
9300 East Hampton Drive  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45: Certification Under 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia (WVPSC) hereby submits its certification in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 & .314. These sections of the Commission's rules requires state certification in order to allow incumbent local exchange carriers (incumbent LECs or ILECs) and competitive LECs that have been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs), to receive federal universal service support pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301 to .314.

As required by 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a) & .314(a), the WVPSC certifies that the following carriers in West Virginia are eligible to receive federal support during January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003: Verizon West Virginia Inc. (Verizon-WV); Citizens Telecommunications Company of West Virginia, d/b/a Frontier Communications of West Virginia; Armstrong Telephone Company - West Virginia; Armstrong Telephone Company - Northern Division; Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.; West Side Telephone Company, d/b/a West Side Telecommunications; Hardy Telecommunications, Inc.; War Telephone Company; Gateway Telecom, LLC. d/b/a StratusWave Communications; FiberNet, LLC.; and Highland Cellular Inc. of West Virginia. These carriers are either ILECs or have been designated ETCs by the Commission.. The WVPSC further certifies that these carriers will use federal universal service support only for the provision, maintenance

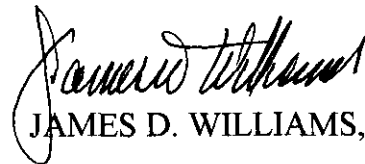
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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
September 27, 2002  
Page 2

and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. This certification is the product of formal proceedings before the WVPSC. See "Commission Order," General Investigation Re: Certification of the Disposition of Federal Universal Service Funding for Calendar Year 2003, Case No. 02-1234-T-GI (Sept. 26, 2001) (copy attached). With respect to Verizon-WV, all federal universal service support received by Verizon-WV is used to reduce monthly rates for single-line business and residential customers in West Virginia, pursuant to settlement agreements.

On behalf of the people of West Virginia, the WVPSC expresses its appreciation for the Commission's efforts in arriving at a mechanism to provide support that will reduce monthly rates for the bulk of consumers and make those rates more comparable to rates paid by consumers in other parts of the Nation.

Very truly yours,



JAMES D. WILLIAMS, Chairman

Encl.

cc: Irene Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company  
2120 L Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20037  
fax (202) 776-0080

*Public Service Commission  
Of West Virginia*

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September 27, 2002

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RE: CASE NO. 02-1234-T-PC  
GENERAL INVESTIGATION REGARDING CERTIFICATION  
OF THE DISPOSITION OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDING

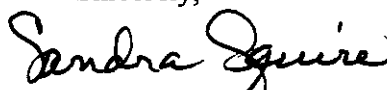
Ms. Dortch and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of a Commission Order issued today in the above-referenced proceeding.

When you submit any additional documents - In addition to filing an original and 6 copies of all documents with the Commission, you are required to mail a copy to all other parties of

**record.** We invite you to visit our Internet web site address at [www.psc.state.wv.us](http://www.psc.state.wv.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Squire".

Sandra Squire  
Executive Secretary

SS/s  
enclose order

cc:

Irene Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company  
2120 L Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20037  
fax (202) 776-0080

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF WEST VIRGINIA  
CHARLESTON**

At a session of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, in the City of Charleston, on the 27th day of September, 2001.

CASE NO. 02-1234-T-PC

**GENERAL INVESTIGATION REGARDING**

Certification of the disposition of federal universal service funding by incumbent local exchange telecommunications carriers and competitive eligible telecommunications carriers in West Virginia for calendar year 2003.

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**COMMISSION ORDER**

On August 20, 2002, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a petition, pursuant to Rule 12.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure and W. Va. Code § 24-1-1(f)(2), to initiate a general investigation regarding certification of the disposition of federal universal service funding by incumbent local exchange telecommunications carriers (ILECs) and competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) in West Virginia for calendar year 2003.

By order entered August 27, 2002, the Commission granted Commission Staff's petition to initiate a general investigation regarding certification of the disposition of federal universal service funding for calendar year 2003 by: (1) incumbent local exchange carriers (incumbent LECs or ILECs) and (2) competitive LECs that have been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) in West Virginia. In accordance with Staff's recommendations, the Commission ordered that ILECs and competitive ETCs file verified statements demonstrating that they use federal universal service support "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended," consistent with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, by September 9, 2002. Commission Order to Initiate A General Investigation, Case No. 02-1234-T-GI (Aug. 27, 2002), at 3.

In accordance with the Commission's order, a number of carriers filed statements verifying that federal universal service funding is used only for the provision, maintenance

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon entry of this order, this case shall be removed from the Commission's docket of open cases.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission's Executive Secretary serve a copy of this order upon all parties of record by United States First Class Mail and upon Commission Staff by hand delivery.

A True Copy, Teste:

  
Sandra Squire  
Executive Secretary

ARC  
LFG/s  
021234ca.wpd